Courses on Peace Education for Teachers

4084. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCERT has advertised a Course called "A Course on Peace Education for Teachers";

(b) the details of such courses offered by the NCERT;

(c) how many such courses are being offered by the NCERT;

(d) whether NCERT is also offering any courses on sensitive behaviour of teachers towards the poorer students in the rural areas;

(e) what steps the NCERT would take to inculcate more sensitivity and sympathy amongst the teachers for the privileged children; and

(f) the details of the courses offered which have a relevance to the treatment of students in the rural schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The course is of six weeks duration and is open to Graduate Teachers, preferably from the Government Schools. Priority will be given to teachers representing SC, ST and minority communities. The Course is scheduled to be held from 6th June to 15th July, 2005.

(c) To begin with only one Course has been planned as a Pilot Programme. Based on response and feedback, more courses will be designed during the course of the year.

(d) to (f) The NCERT is currently in the process of reviewing the National Curriculum Framework. Under this review, 21 National Focus Group have been appointed. These include a focus group on the problem of SC and ST children. It is expected that future programmes of the NCERT will attempt to follow the guidelines suggested by the Focus Groups after their ratification by the Executive Committee of NCERT in May, 2005. Already the NCERT offers many regular training programmes for teachers educators which emphasize the need for senstivity towards the SC, ST girls and children with disabilities. The need for a culture of peace, equality and human rights to pervade our ethical values and praxis is an integral part of the curriculum framework. The revised National Curriculum Framework

will view education as a means of social transformation and assist in the establishment of an egalitarian society. These values will also pervade all training programmes conducted by the NCERT as also the new textbooks which will be developed consequent to the adoption of the National Curriculum Framework.

Free education to students

4085. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many State Governments have been imparting free education to the school students and up to which class this facility is available, State-wise;

(b) whether there are any States not affording free education to school boys and girls, and if so, whether these States would also be brought at par;

(c) the State where free education is extended up to college and university level, fully or partly;

(d) what is the percentage of those taking elementary education up to the age of 14 years; and

(e) by when, illiteracy would be eradicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) 25 States and 7 UTs were providing free education at elementary level (class I to V) in Government Schools as per available statistics for 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Some of these States were providing free education upto VIII class and some other States were providing free education upto X or XII class.

(c) 10 States and 2 UTs were providing free education to girls at the college and university level fully or partly during 1998-2001.

(d) 82.5%.

(e) The target of National Literacy Mission is to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.